

2017 Graduate Field School

Folklore 6020: Field and Research Methods (Bay Roberts Field School)

REQUIRED COURSE FOR ALL INCOMING GRADUATE STUDENTS

The Folklore 6020 Field School will introduce incoming graduate students to the cultural documentation methods used by folklorists. The theme of the 2017 field school is “narrative and place” in one Newfoundland community: Bay Roberts.

Bay Roberts will provide a unique setting in which we will learn about and apply a variety of fieldwork techniques. The town motto: “Carved by the Sea” suggests the significance of the ocean to the Bay Roberts’ identity. Bay Roberts has an active heritage and cultural community, which includes an art gallery, museum, and a heritage district.

Bay Roberts is located within easy driving distance to the many historic and picturesque communities of Conception Bay North, including Cupids and Brigus, both about ten minutes away.

Tourist information can be found at:

<http://www.bayroberts.com>

Our teaching base for the field school will be the Society of United Fishermen, Dawe Lodge #82, on Patterson Street in Bay Roberts.

Dates: The field school runs September 11-29. On Sunday, September 10th we will travel together to Bay Roberts (about one hour from St. John’s), where three weeks will be spent learning field documentation techniques. We will return to St. John’s on Friday September 29th.

The field school is an intensive, team-based experience and will require your full commitment from September 11-29th. Events will occasionally be held in the evenings and on weekends.

Tentative Schedule:

WEEK 1: Classes on interviewing, ethics, audio and visual recording techniques, taking ethnographic field notes.

WEEK 2: Working in teams, students interview local residents and conduct ethnographic documentation.

WEEK 3: Students continue to work in teams to conduct their own interviews and research. The week concludes with a public presentation to the community of the project.

Instructors:

Dr. Jillian Gould

Jillian Gould regularly teaches folklore research methods at both graduate and undergraduate levels. She was once a participant in the American Folklife Center's Cultural Documentation Field School in Bloomington, Indiana, where she was bit by the folklore bug—she never looked back. She enjoys studying foodways, and has conducted fieldwork and written about candy stores and egg creams in New York City, blueberry buns in Toronto, fish and chips shops in St. John's, and "hole in the middles"—fried bread with an egg cooked in the middle—home comfort food. Other projects include intensive fieldwork at a Jewish old age home in Toronto, where she explored how the residents create "home" in an institution through narratives, material culture, and ritual. Lately she has been interested in the 1930s WPA fieldwork conducted by Herbert Halpert (1911-2000) –who later went on to found MUN's Dept. of Folklore.

Dr. Diane Tye

Diane Tye has taught courses in folklore research methods for three decades. In 2015 she co-instructed an interdisciplinary field-based course in foodways at Memorial's campus in Harlow England. Her own fieldwork has been conducted in Atlantic Canada on a range of everyday subjects from cultural understandings of regionally iconic foods like lobster, molasses and home-baked bread, to folk art, local characters, bachelorette parties, Christmas mummering, contemporary legend, and family stories. She has a special interest in autoethnography and her full-length study of her mother's recipes, *Baking as Biography. A Life Story on Recipes* (2010), won the Elli Köngäs-Maranda Book Prize awarded by the Women's Section of the American Folklore Society (AFS).

Diane is a past president of the Folklore Studies Association of Canada, past member of the AFS Executive Board and past co-editor of *Digest*, the online the journal of AFS's Foodways Section.

Guest instructor

Bonnie Sunstein will offer two days of instruction on ethnographic writing.

Dr. Bonnie Sunstein

Bonnie Sunstein has taught nonfiction writing, ethnographic research, methods of teaching of writing, and folklore studies, and directs programs in both undergraduate writing and English education for over twenty years in the Department of English, University of Iowa. She has established many community writing events for local student writers, including the twice-yearly “Writers Gone Public” undergraduate readings and the “Collaborative Writing Consultancy,” a writing center for graduate students in the College of Education.

Bonnie leads writing and teaching institutes across the USA, Canada, and around the world. For twenty prior years, she taught in the New England states, at the University of New Hampshire, Northeastern University, Rivier College, and in Massachusetts public schools. During summers, she teaches in such programs as the Martha’s Vineyard Summer Workshops on Writing and Teaching, the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, and others. She is currently the national chair of the Norman Mailer Writing awards for high school and college writers.

Her chapters, articles, and poems appear in many professional journals and anthologies. Her award-winning *FieldWorking: Reading and Writing Research* (Bedford St Martins), is now in its fourth edition, and five other books (Heinemann and NCTE) are popular among writers and teachers. Bonnie is currently working on a new book about teaching nonfiction writing for the University of Chicago Press, where she also leads a project to revise the famous Turabian “Student’s Guide to Writing College Papers.” She has received national grants from the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, Imagining America, the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) network, and the National Council of Teachers of English. At Iowa, she has won the Collegiate Teaching Award, the Gerber Award for the Teaching of Writing, three Obermann Center Research Fellowships, and two Arts and Humanities grants.

Guest Instructors

Over the three weeks a variety of guest instructors will join us to share their expertise on topics ranging from local history, creating community-based presentations, compiling archival metadata, videography, and documentary photography.

The Specifics:

Requirements: This is a required course for all incoming graduate students. The other two required courses for Fall 2017 semester—Folklore 6010 and Folklore 6030—will begin the week of October 2nd, after the completion of the field

school.

Preparation: In preparation for the Field School, before you arrive, please read the Library of Congress, American Folklife Center, *Folklife & Fieldwork: An Introduction to Cultural Documentation* available online:

<https://www.loc.gov/folklife/fieldwork/>

Leisure opportunities: The field school offers you a unique opportunity to experience life in rural Newfoundland. In your spare time you will be able to enjoy outdoor activities such as hiking and berry picking. Weekend excursions will be organized to nearby communities to visit museums, heritage houses, and other attractions.

Accommodation: You will share accommodation with other students in one of several cabins that have been rented to us for the field school located at Roaches Line Camp ground. Each cabin has a fully equipped kitchen, three-piece bathroom, television, and internet. Bedding, cooking utensils, and dishes are supplied. There are laundry facilities on site.

Food: Students will be responsible for their own meals although we will share communal meals occasionally. There is a convenience store nearby and several grocery stores in Bay Roberts.

PLEASE NOTE: The cost of the field school will be \$950 per student payable to the Folklore Department Office **on or before September 6th**. **PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS A ONE TIME PAYMENT THAT IS IN ADDITION TO YOUR TUITION AND OTHER SEMESTER FEES.** This will cover the cost of student accommodations, travel to/from Bay Roberts, supplies and special events.